



Saint Hilarion the Great
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on October 21

This Saint was born in Tabatha, near Gaza of Palestine, of pagan parents. Sent as a young man to Alexandria to be educated, he learned the Christian faith and was baptized. While in Egypt he heard the fame of Saint Anthony the Great, and upon meeting that truly great man, the Father of monks, Saint Hilarion determined to devote himself to the ascetical life. He returned to Gaza, where he gave himself over to extreme fasting and unceasing prayer. Because of the miracles which he soon began to work, he found himself compelled by his growing renown to leave Gaza, to escape from the throngs of people coming to ask his prayers. In his journeys he visited Egypt, and came again with longing to the place where Saint Anthony had lived; but he was not able to remain in any one place for long, since despite his attempts to conceal himself, the light of the grace that was in him could not be hid. After passing through Egypt and Libya, and sailing to Sicily, he came at last to Cyprus, where he ended the course of his life at the age of eighty in 372.

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Dismissal Hymn. Plagal of Fourth Tone

WITH the streams of thy tears, thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert; and by thy sighings from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundredfold in labours; and thou becamest a luminary, shining with miracles upon the world, O Hilarion our righteous Father. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

*Kontakion. Third Tone
On this day the Virgin*

AS we gather on this day, * we sing thy praise and acclaim thee * as a never-setting light * of the bright spiritual Daystar. * Those whom ignorance benighted, * thou didst illumine * with thy beams; and thou dost raise unto the divine heights, * O Hilarion, our Father, * all them that cry out: * Height of Ascetics, Rejoice!

